Procurement of wheat and rice by FCI

*267. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have urged for provision of funds to the Food Corporation of India to procure entire on going rabi rice in the States; and

(b) if so, to what extent FCI has been able to procure all the wheat and rice in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh only to place funds at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in order to ensure smooth procurement of Rabi rice.

Under the present system of procurement, the producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at support prices or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Notwithstanding that, 206.14 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured this year as against 163.56 lakh tonnes last year. The procurement of rice during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 so far is 184.96 lakh tonnes as against 172.73 lakh tonnes procured during the last Kharif Marketing Season.

Functioning of ESI Hospitals / Dispensaries

*268. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, recently, reviewed the functioning of Dispensaries / Hospitals under the Employees State Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of the proposals received for expansion / upgradation of medical services / Institutions under ESI in the State; and

(d) the details of the action taken / proposed in this regard during the current and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The Sathyam Committee constituted by the Government visited and reviewed the functioning of ESI Scheme in Maharashtra along with some other States. The recommendations of the Sathyam Committee are in the process of implementation at both ESIC and State Government level. On the basis of the proposals received from the State Government the ESI Corporation has sanctioned equipments worth Rs. 7.50 crore to upgrade / modernize the services in ESIC hospitals / dispensaries in Maharashtra. The ESI Corporation has also paid an advance of Rs. 3.26 crore to the State Government of Maharashtra to enable them to purchase the equipments.

National Highways Development Fund

*269. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the National Highways Development Fund Government have to spend more than Rs. 50,000 crore for road building activity and highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have not utilised the earlier amount of Rs. 2500 crore under the Fund; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to National Highways Development Project (NHDP) under which the Government has undertaken 4/6 laning in 13252 km. of National Highways consisting of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai